CLAIMS:

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1. In ~~a computer system having an input device including~~ an auxiliary control, ~~a~~ method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control for a predefined period in which the first auxiliary control maintains an inactive state; and

generating feedback responsive to said step of detecting, the feedback providing an indication of the functionality of the first auxiliary control.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes acoustic feedback.

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~~3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the input device is a game controller.~~

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes tactile feedback.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the feedback includes at least one of visual feedback, acoustic feedback and/or tactile feedback.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of detecting further comprises detecting the first physical presence for the first predefined period in which both the first auxiliary control and a pointing device maintain an inactive state.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system further includes a display screen, and said step of generating further includes the step of displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first display widget includes a user interface through which a user may change settings of the functionality of the first auxiliary control.

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~~9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the first display widget identifies a text macro associated with the first auxiliary control.~~

10. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of:

detecting absence of the first physical presence proximate to or contacting the first auxiliary control for a second predefined period while displaying the first display widget; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the first physical presence for the second predefined period.

11. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to activation of a second auxiliary control.

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying the first display widget responsive to deactivation of the second auxiliary control when the first physical presence remains proximate to or in contact with the first auxiliary control.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the second auxiliary control is the first auxiliary control.

14. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of disabling display of the first display widget after deactivation of the second auxiliary control until after the first physical presence breaks contact with or is no longer proximate to the first auxiliary control.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the second auxiliary control is the first auxiliary control.

16. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control;

generating other feedback responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence, the other feedback indicates functionality associated with the second auxiliary control; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to detecting the second physical presence.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said step of generating other feedback includes displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the other feedback indicates functionality associated with the combination of the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control correspond to separate controls on the input device, the device being a keyboard input device.

20. In a computer system having an input device including an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a first physical presence proximate to or contacting a first auxiliary control; and

displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing a tool tip associated with the auxiliary control.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the input device is a keyboard.

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein the first auxiliary control is a button or key.

23. The method according to claim 20, wherein the first auxiliary control is a combination of keys.

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24. The method according to claim 20, wherein the input device is a pointing device and the first auxiliary control is a button.

25. The method according to claim 20, wherein the tool tip identifies an application that will be launched by activating the first auxiliary control.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the application is one of a word processing, spreadsheet, web browser, file explorer, calculator, or messaging application.

27. The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of detecting further comprises detecting the first physical presence for a first predefined period in which both the first auxiliary control and a pointing device maintain an inactive state.

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28. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

detecting a second physical presence proximate to or contacting a second auxiliary control different from the first auxiliary control;

displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the second physical presence, the second display widget providing a tool tip associated with the second auxiliary control; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget responsive to detecting the second physical presence.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein said step of displaying the second display widget includes displaying the second display widget responsive to simultaneous detection of the first physical presence and the second physical presence, the second display widget representing a tool tip associated with the combination of the first auxiliary control and the second auxiliary control.

30. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing acoustic feedback responsive to said step of detecting.

31. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of providing tactile feedback responsive to said step of detecting.